

St. Helens Mist

OFFICIAL PAPER OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

PIONEER PAPER OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

VOLUME XXXVII.

ST. HELENS, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1918

NO. 8

COUNTY ROAD WORK WILL SOON START PLANS ARE BEING MADE

County Court Now Making Plans to Push Road Work.

The season will soon be at hand when road repairing and road building can be done to an advantage, and the county court, with the idea of getting an early start on the many road projects, has been going over details and estimates of the proposed road work. It is planned to make a large fill near Ingls to take the place of the long trestle roadway, which is unsafe and beyond repair. The fill is estimated to cost around \$4,500, and bids will be asked for this work. Several miles of the St. Helens-Pittsburg road, from Tremholm west, will be also advertised. The engineer's estimate on the first two miles, which is quite heavy construction, is around \$15,000. The McAllister road is also due for some work, and bids will be asked on that job. In the Mayer neighborhood, the Marti road will come in for its share of work. The estimate on this proposed improvement is about \$4,000. In the Clatskanie district, the Clatskanie Heights road will be repaired and put in better condition and money has also been appropriated for repair work on the Beaver road. In Districts 8 and 9, repair work will be done first, and as soon as the engineers can get over in that country and lay out the new work rapid progress will be made.

In view of the recent court decision as to the validity of several special road levies in another Oregon county, the court is not now making any plans which call for expenditures from the special road levies, preferring to see if these levies will be contested. It is thought that the levies are valid, but the court would rather be certain before proceeding with the work previously outlined.

In District No. 1 (Scappoose), many of the taxpayers wish the court to spend a considerable portion of their district money on the extension and repaving of the Canyon road, as it leads to a valuable tract of timber which will soon be logged.

Before the court adjourns, the program for the road work will be outlined so far as possible and the district supervisors given instructions to proceed with the work. In view of the scarcity of labor and the prevailing high wages, it cannot be expected to do as much work as was done during the previous year.

DEATH CALLS EDWARD WOODS

Well Known Resident of St. Helens Dies in Portland Hospital.

Edward B. Woods, familiarly known as Eddie by a host of friends here and elsewhere, died in St. Vincent's hospital in Portland Wednesday evening at 9 o'clock. For the past several days he had gradually been failing and his death was not unexpected, but nevertheless it came as a shock to his friends.

Deceased was born in Michigan in 1870, and his early life was spent in Ontonago, in that state, where he was employed by the Diamond Match Company. Charles R. McCormick and H. F. McCormick were also employed by the same concern, and it was through their influence that Mr. Woods came west and accepted a position with the St. Helens Lumber Company as lumber inspector and yardman. Later he was made foreman of the mill force. Several years ago he left that position to engage in business for himself. In 1914 he married Mrs. Bertha Van Tassel, who survives him.

Deceased was a member of Avon Lodge No. 62, Knights of Pythias, and a number of the members of the lodge went to Portland today to attend the funeral, which will be held at the Portland Crematorium at 1 o'clock.

Mr. Woods was deservedly popular among a large number of people. His cheerful disposition and friendly ways won him the friendship of many and he had a host of friends who mourn his departure.

Lebanon now has city mail delivery.

COLUMBIA COUNTY HAS FIRST WOMAN OFFICER

Miss Bessie Hattan is Appointed County Treasurer.

To Miss Bessie Hattan falls the distinction of being the first woman official to occupy an important official position in the courthouse. She was appointed treasurer Tuesday by the county judge, and the appointment was confirmed by the county court Wednesday. Miss Hattan succeeds J. W. Hunt, who resigned to accept the position of chief deputy under County Clerk Hall. The newly appointed treasurer is a daughter of the late Judge R. S. Hattan, and is fully capable of performing the duties of her new office. For the past seven years she has been employed in a clerical capacity in the county clerk's office and she is quite familiar with the courthouse work in general. The appointment of Miss Hattan meets with the approval of a large number of taxpayers, irrespective of party, and it is predicted that she will fill the important position she now occupies in a most acceptable and efficient manner.

COLUMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL NOTES

Earl Brown has been elected by the St. Helens school board to take charge of the Eighth grade of the St. Helens school in place of Prof. J. H. McCoy, who has resigned to take up chautauqua work.

Miss Dorothy John has been elected teacher in the Stehman District No. 16, near Rainier, in place of Miss Eva Moore, who has resigned.

Miss Lillian Hodgins, of Portland has been elected teacher in the Lost Creek school, District 33, near Delena, to finish the remainder of the year.

N. C. Maris, industrial field worker, of Salem, will arrive in Columbia county for two weeks work beginning February 25, in conjunction with the Kaiser drive.

The school premium list has been sent out and active work for the county fair has been started in most of the schools of this county.

All the leading schools of Columbia county have signified their intention of entering the spelling contest to be held at St. Helens on May 3. We still have a few contest spellers free for the asking.

The Warren school under the management of C. J. Russell is giving a program on the evening of February 8.

Aplary School district, No. 38, will build a \$3,000 modern school building during the coming summer, which will probably be the most up-to-date rural school in Columbia county. The Aplary people are to be congratulated for the progressive step they have taken along educational lines.

Both teachers and pupils appear to be doing their utmost to boost the sale of Thrift Stamps and help to beat the kaiser.

Don't forget Arbor day, Feb. 8. This week marked the beginning of the new semester and the shifting of classes. Some rooms contain as high as 45 pupils.

URGE WORK START ON NEW ROAD

A committee from the commercial club waited upon the county court Thursday afternoon and urged that work be begun on the Columbia City-St. Helens road. A canvass has been made among the various business men and thus far \$1,400 subscribed for the building of the road. Many people are yet to be seen and it is thought that at least \$2,500 can be raised by private subscriptions to aid in the road building. The committee asked that part of the road tax raised in the St. Helens district be applied towards the building of the road. The county court took the matter under advisement and will probably advertise for bids in the near future.

A number of residents of the Tide Creek section who live along the proposed Clark-Wilson road, were in attendance at the county court on Wednesday, protesting against the building of the road on the line chosen by the surveyors and road chasers.

DILLARD HOUSE DAMAGED BY FIRE

Origin of Fire is Not Determined—Seems Suspicious.

A fire which started from some unknown source occurred at the residence of W. B. Dillard about 3:30 o'clock Thursday morning, caused damage of several hundred dollars to the building and contents. Mr. Dillard is of the opinion that the fire was set, as it started in the southeast corner of the basement, where much wood is stored. No one had been in the basement with fire, nor had any fire been there. Mr. Dillard heard a noise around the corner of the house and went out to investigate. He discovered the fire burning, and it was then so small that if he had had a bucket of water he could have put out the flames. Before he could get the water, the flames had spread, and following up the side of the house between the walls got into the attic. Neighbors heard his cry for assistance and phoned in the alarm, and the fire apparatus was on the scene in about ten minutes and did good work, soon having the flames extinguished. An investigation of the matter is now under way.

Mr. Dillard carried no insurance on either the building or furnishings, and this loss coming on top of the loss of the Strand theatre, which was burned last fall, on which there was no insurance, falls rather heavily upon him.

SINKING OF TRANSPORT CAUSES ANXIETY HERE

Several Local Boys May Have Been on Transport.

The news of the sinking of the U. S. transport Tuscania, which carried the Twentieth Engineers regiment, of Oregon, is the cause of much anxiety to people of St. Helens and vicinity. It is thought likely that a number of Columbia county boys may have been on the ill fated vessel. George Perkins, brother of Mrs. H. F. McCormick, Joe Stricklevitch and the Nagle boys, of Warren, are thought to have been among those who were left to the mercy of the waters by the fiends who haunt the sea.

The Tuscania carried 2,179 United States troops, and as yet no authentic report as to names and exact numbers of casualties has been received. About 1,500 survivors were landed on the coast of Ireland.

When launched in September, 1914, the steamship Tuscania was rated the finest and largest of the Anchor line had provided for its service. She was a twin screw ship, four-gear turbine engines being installed. On the occasion of her first appearance at New York, February 17, 1915, it was made a memorable event in a maritime way. The vessel had accommodations for 2,500.

The Tuscania was built at Glasgow, A. Stephen & Sons having been awarded the contract by the Anchor line. She was 549.2 feet long, 66.5 foot beam and 41.7 feet depth of hold. The vessel had four full decks, also a shelter deck, and was 14,348 tons gross and 8,621 tons net register. Captain J. L. Henderson was her master, according to the last reports, and shipping reports show she reached New York on her previous voyage January 17.

As outfitted for the passenger trade the Tuscania represented the most modern type of trans-Atlantic liner.

By a strange coincidence the Cunard liner Tuscania, torpedoed off the coast of Ireland and bearing a large contingent of Oregonians in the 20th Engineer regiment, was the same vessel recently employed in transporting the 162d Infantry, formerly the 3d Oregon regiment, to a port in France. No untoward incident marked the trip of the Tuscania upon her voyage overseas with the Oregon infantry regiment.

The annual Portland automobile show opened last night in the auditorium. Governor Withycombe pressed an electric starter which turned on the lights and the show was in full swing. It is said by those who attended that the 1918 cars exhibited make a very attractive display. The show will continue ten days.

WHERE IS YOUR SOLDIER BOY?

The Honor Guard Girls Would Like to Know.

The St. Helens Honor Guard girls would like to know the present address of every Columbia county soldier boy. They wish to keep in touch with the boys who have answered the call to arms so that they may better serve the soldiers. Some of the Christmas packages which were sent out by the Honor Guard have been returned on account of being improperly addressed or failure to locate the soldier for whom the package was intended. The girls sent the packages to addresses given by friends or relatives of the soldiers, and it is possible that many of the boys had been sent to other stations before the packages were mailed, so they now want to get an accurate address list. If you have a friend, relative, sweetheart or even an acquaintance from this county who is serving Uncle Sam in either the army or navy send his address to the president of the Honor Guard, St. Helens, and your courtesy will be appreciated.

GOOD WOMAN GONE TO REST

Mrs. Louisa A. Luman, a resident of Columbia county for the past forty years, died at her home in West St. Helens early Sunday morning. For some time the deceased had been in ill health and her death was not unexpected. She leaves three daughters, two of whom reside in Idaho and one, Mrs. Ida Bramble, who resides in Astoria. A son, Otto Luman, 18 years old, and who has tenderly cared for his mother for several years, lives in St. Helens. The funeral was held from the Houlton M. E. church Tuesday, and the services were conducted by Rev. A. S. Hisey. The interment was in the Warren cemetery.

THRIFT STAMP CAM- PAIGN IN SCHOOLS

The Thrift Stamp campaign taken up in the St. Helens schools a few weeks ago is producing good results. Our children are foregoing the pleasure of candy eating and indulgence in other unnecessary things that they may invest their savings in Thrift and War Stamps.

Following is a report from the different rooms taken February 6:

McBride School	
First grade, Miss Matthew's room	\$ 5.50
Second grade, Miss Taylor's room	24.00
Third and Fourth grades, Miss Armstrong's room	91.25
Seventh and Eighth grades, Mr. Lake's room	95.50
John Gunn School	
First grade, Mrs. Barnett's room	14.25
First grade, Miss Perry's room	7.25
Second grade, Miss Hall's room	16.00
Third grade, Mrs. Lake's room	37.75
Fourth grade, Miss La Bare's room	68.00
Fifth grade, Miss Hickethier's room	59.25
Sixth grade, Miss Stenneck's room	13.50
Seventh grade, Mrs. Wilson's room	56.00
Eighth grade, Mr. Brown's room	37.00

The high school report has not been completed, but including Liberty Bonds tallies \$1,044.

L. L. BAKER.

WM. LAKE MEETS DEATH AT CAMP

William J. Lake, who was accidentally killed at the Deer Island Logging camp on January 26, was a man of excellent habits and good reputation and his tragic end was keenly felt by his many down-the-river friends. Before working at Deer Island he was employed in a camp near Cathlamet, Wash., and was a member in good standing of the I. O. O. F. lodge there. The lodge wired Coroner White to see that the unfortunate man was given a nice burial. The body was interred in the Warren cemetery and the funeral was in charge of local Odd Fellows. Several of his friends from Deer Island were up to pay their respects to their dead comrade. Deceased was to have been married in July, and Coroner White had to break the sad news to his fiancée.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT SOMMARSTROM YARD

Large Lodging House Burns and Adjacent Buildings Endangered.

Last Friday evening a fire occurred at the Sommarstrom yard at Columbia City, which caused a loss of \$5,000 to \$6,000 and for a time threatened the destruction of adjacent buildings. The three-story frame building recently constructed and used as a lodging house for a number of the company's employees, in some manner caught fire about 6 o'clock in the evening and was totally destroyed. Many of the men were returning from supper when they saw the flames burst from both ends of the building, and so rapid was the progress of the fire that the building was soon a mass of flames and was burned to the ground.

By the faithful work of employees and others who came to the assistance of the firefighters, the adjoining buildings were saved. The first impression was that the fire was of incendiary origin, but after a thorough investigation by officials of the shipbuilding company, aided by Sheriff Stanwood and a deputy from the office of the state fire marshal, it was determined that the fire was accidental and probably occurred by the explosion of an oil stove.

A large number of people from St. Helens went to the scene of the fire, and some of the city's fire apparatus was pressed into service, but on account of the deep snow slow progress was made with the equipment, and it arrived too late to be of much assistance. One man jumped from the third story of the building and was slightly injured and several lost their personal effects.

Hardly before the ashes of the destroyed building were cold, the Sommarstrom brothers had placed an order for lumber to erect another lodging house similar to the burned structure, and in the short space of a week the work has been so rapid that the building is now two-thirds complete, and in a few days will be ready for occupancy. A large force of skilled carpenters and willing laborers rushed the work all possible, so that their fellow workmen would have quarters, and when the building is complete a record will have been established in this vicinity for the quick construction of a large building.

The shipbuilding company is grateful for the assistance given both by their employees and the public in general, and wishes the Mist to express their thanks.

MAN DISAPPEARS; SUICIDE IS FEARED

Coroner White is in receipt of a letter from C. A. Beckman, who lives in Portland, stating that his brother-in-law, Leo D. Monroe, disappeared from home January 26, and indications are that he committed suicide. The missing man is described as being 29 years old, height 5 feet 6 inches, dark brown or black hair, fair complexion and rosy cheeks. At the time of his disappearance he was dressed in a dark suit of clothes, gray sweater coat and dark gray cap. Coroner White was asked to keep a lookout for anybody he might receive information of bearing resemblance to the missing man.

RED CROSS COUNCIL ISSUES STATEMENT

The Red Cross submits to the public a statement of all appropriations made since its appointment up to January, 1918. These appropriations show a total of \$44,657,795.99 for foreign relief; a total of \$2,612,532.60 for United States relief, and a total of \$24,328,181 for expenditures for supplies. Over thirty millions have been appropriated for work in France. Total appropriations from Red Cross war fund to January, 1918, equal \$77,843,435.35. No expenses of administration are paid from this fund.

This report gives the public some conception of the magnitude of the work being accomplished by the Red Cross. Through the efforts of this organization the arms of relief are being strengthened and farther extended to include millions of the world's unfortunates. Use every opportunity to boost for the Red Cross.

CITY COUNCIL HAS VERY BUSY SESSION

MARSHAL TO GET RAISE
Ordinance for Purchase of Fire Truck is Passed.

The city council had a busy session at its regular meeting Monday night. All the city dads were present and a considerable number of citizens were in the council chamber to see what was going on.

Reports of standing committees were heard. Councilman Allen reported that after a careful investigation his committee thought it advisable that dances should not be held after 12 o'clock at night and that all other places of business be closed at 1 o'clock. A motion to this effect was made and carried.

The street committee reported that it was not advisable to place a light at the foot of the stairway leading to the library room.

In the matter of the fire alarm gong in the engine room of the mill, it was claimed that the gong was not large enough. The matter was referred to the fire and water committee.

Mike Fresh applied for a building permit and it was granted, and the matter of connection with the mill company's tank for further fire protection was taken up and discussed at length. A committee was appointed to meet with the water board and see what could be done.

The ordinance authorizing the council to purchase a fire truck and necessary equipment for a sum not exceeding \$1,400 came up for its final reading, and before it was placed on its final passage the mayor asked for expressions from the taxpayers present. Senator Magnus Saxon was present, and remembering times of old when he sat within the railing as a councilman, he had prepared a great speech, which he delivered. The "senator" was not opposed to the buying of a truck, but suggested that should the truck be bought someone be employed to look after the apparatus and keep the brasswork polished. L. R. Rutherford stated he was in favor of purchasing a truck and thought the insurance underwriters would lower fire insurance rates if more adequate fire protection could be gained. Dr. Flynn thought the city should have a fire truck, as did several others who gave the council the benefit of their advice, and after Attorney Day had given them legal advice, the councilmen voted unanimously in favor of the ordinance. No emergency clause was attached, therefore no arrangements for the purchase of the truck can be made for thirty days, when the ordinance becomes effective.

An ordinance fixing the salary of the marshal at \$85 per month was read the first time. The marshal now receives \$70 per month, and the council thought that the office should pay more in view of the high cost of living.

A telegram from Congressman Hawley was read. It related to the river channel work. Mr. Hawley promised that he would go before the board of engineers and endeavor to have another hearing of the matter.

It was ordered by the council that the marshal bring before the recorder all persons who have not paid their city licenses under ordinances 209 and 210.

Several other matters were brought before the council and acted upon, and the council adjourned figuring they had put in enough time for one evening.

COUNTY COURT TO MEET WEDNESDAY

The county court will hold a special meeting at 10 o'clock Wednesday, February 13, to hear all objections, remonstrances and suggestions in regard to the appointment of the election judges and clerks. There is a state law requiring this, and the county court will hear any suggestions as to the board they appointed at the last term of court. Several of the judges and clerks appointed have advised the court that they will not serve, and the vacancies will be filled by other appointments on next Wednesday.